

transmitting from the MS transmitter the spread access preamble, at a first discrete power level;

if NO acknowledgement corresponding to the access preamble is detected, transmitting a spread access preamble from the MS transmitter at a second discrete power level higher than the first discrete power level; and

upon detecting an acknowledgement corresponding to a transmitted access preamble, ceasing preamble transmission and transmitting the packet data from the MS transmitter.

E1 Cont. ²⁸
~~48~~. (Amended) The method of claim ²⁷~~47~~, further comprising one or more additional steps of transmitting a spread access preamble at a successively higher power if NO acknowledgement corresponding to any of the preamble transmissions is received, up to a maximum allowed number of preamble transmissions.

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~~49~~. (Amended) A code-division-multiple-access (CDMA) wireless handset, comprising:
a CDMA transmitter;
a CDMA receiver; and
a controller coupled to the CDMA receiver for responding to signals received via the CDMA receiver and coupled for controlling the CDMA transmitter, such that in operation the CDMA handset is for performing the following steps:

spreading an access preamble selected from a set of predefined preambles;

transmitting the spread access preamble, at a first discrete power level to a base station;